

NEW YORK CLUB AFFAIRS.

The Initiation Fee of \$200 Reduced to \$100 and the Old Officers Re-elected.

At the annual meeting of the New York Club, at Thirty-fifth street and Fifth avenue, which was held on Wednesday night, the constitution was amended by an almost unanimous vote so as to reduce the initiation fee from \$300 to \$100. The change had been under discussion in the club for many months and was one of the principal factors in causing the wholesale resignation of the directors, last December, which led to so much public comment. The meeting on Wednesday night, owing to the important nature of the proposed amendment, in addition to the election of officers for the year, was unusually large. It was generally expected that there would be the largest turnout of members and the unanimous nature of the proceedings was a decided surprise to the members themselves.

There were two tickets of candidates in the field for the election, but the event showed that only one of them was seriously considered by the club. In the evening the few advocates of the opposition ticket reported to have said that they put up their candidates, as it were, only for a joke.

The regular ticket, which received all but an inconsiderable fraction of the entire vote, was, with a single exception, made up of the same men that were elected last December, when the previous Board resigned. J. H. Parker was elected President; J. J. Alexander, Vice-President; Samuel Hopkins, Treasurer; Henry C. T. Parker, Secretary; W. H. T. Hughes, F. T. Adams, D. E. Suydam, G. B. Schley, J. M. Hough, and Arthur C. Sullivan.

One of the reasons given for the reason for the radical reduction of the initiation fees said yesterday:

"The reduction of the fee from \$300 to \$100 is made as an experiment. It will not be long, probably, before the sum will be raised to \$400 again. The principal purpose of it was to get rid of the old officers, who were mostly men who have resigned in years past from one circumstance or another. They have already paid the initiation fee, and I am sure that most of them are now in good circumstances, and that we are very anxious to have, and we hope that many of them will come back to the club. We have no record, know between thirty and forty who have definitely signified their intention of doing so."

"Another reason is that we are not sure what the present trend is, when there are so many new clubs offering so much for so little, especially the athletic clubs, our initiation fees are too high. The principal and almost sole intention of lowering the standard of admission: we shall be, if anything, more strict than ever in our club's standards of conduct and discipline, any club that shows a disposition to do the same, and that is the question particularly, and that caused all the trouble. In the first place, they were opened to the public, and the public was not educated, nor tried for the reason I have explained. Then the directors believed it was only natural to pay off the club debts, and therefore let it go to the members in dividends. That would mean to throw the whole burden on the present members, without any prospect of getting back the amount invested in the satisfactory shape, and there is no need of incurring the payment. The present Board will probably take it off gradually, and distribute the dividends among the members."

According to this director's figures the club is to-day in equity more than \$200,000 ahead of its liabilities. It was estimated, however, that at a conservative estimate, it should be worth from \$300,000 to \$350,000, while its only debt consists in bonds held by the members. What constitutes the chief source of wealth is the \$100,000 in savings deposited in the bank, \$10,000 beyond all expenses, and under the new policy it is expected to make two or three times as much.

A CHURCH SOLD FOR A MEAT BILL.

The Rev. Mr. Potter is Indignant and Wins Right the Case in Court.

BOSTON, April 21.—(Special to the Press.)—The Rev. Mr. Potter, of Boston, has won his suit against the church corporation, in the First District Court this morning.

The suit was brought by Isaac Behrheimer, a butcher, of 175 Avenue A, against the Tabernacle Methodist Church, Second Avenue, near Tenth street, for meat delivered and not paid for. The butcher claimed that Dr. Ruth, Daniel C. Potter, the pastor of the church, ordered the meat last summer, that the meat was delivered and eaten, and that the minister then would not pay the bill.

Mr. Potter was very indignant and much annoyed yesterday when a reporter asked him about the case.

"It's a low, mean game," he said. "That man thinks that rather than submit to the notoriety of the case, I will submit to his charges. In the first place, the church has no more to do with the minister than you have. I bought the meat myself for one of my boarding houses, and it is not possible for the pastor to be responsible for the meat. The church corporation in court to-morrow to prove that the church had nothing to do with the buying or eating of the meat. So much for that."

"The whole amount that man claims is \$73,633. There is only a difference of a few dollars between the right amount and the amount going to fight. For the sake of the thing, the butcher last summer gave me a list of prices at which he would sell me meat. Dr. Behrheimer is a poor representative, and so on. You see? He just increased the price, thinking I would not notice it, or else would not care to pay it."

The other side of the story is that the meat went to the poor who applied for food and that the church is responsible for the matter; also that the minister made up subject to changes in the market.

This church has a similar experience only a few months ago. A complaint for a small amount was filed, and the church corporation, the church was obtained by default. A deputized sheriff hung around the building for a couple of days, and the minister was tried and convicted. A principal witness in his defense, Rev. Mr. Potter's troubles with the Sheriff, to the effect that he has evaded a great many trials, was brought up by him with a vengeance. Yesterday he died.

"These stories are all untrue. I never saw a man in my life. I heard a story once that he had been a sheriff himself, but I never heard of him before. I never saw a man in my life, and as for that coal merchant, the Sheriff came up to my room here."

THE COMPRADE A DEFALCATOR.

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank Loss \$300,000 in Drawings With Chinamen.

Mongre details of a big defalcation in Hong Kong reached New York yesterday by way of San Francisco, and were corroborated by A. M. Townsend, the New York agent of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, the comprador of the bank, a trusted Chinese man, who had been in the bank's service many years, was said in the press despatches to have defalcated to the extent of \$300,000, but Mr. Townsend says that his telegraphic advices put the amount at \$500,000 Mexican dollars, or about \$36,000.

The comprador is a very important person in the big English banks in China. He is a way of a Chinaman and places all the bank's personally known to the English.

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